

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-11 and 13-33 are pending. Claim 6 is currently canceled. Claims 14, 17 and 22-31 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 15, and 16 are currently amended. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in now canceled claim 6 of the pending application. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Patent Office for rejoining, previously withdrawn, claims 18-21.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 is said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 6.

In a telephonic conversation with Examiner Lum and Applicants' representative, Julie Lapos-Kuchar, on January 15, 2010, the statement on page 7 of the Office Action regarding "the rejection under section 112, paragraph 6 above" was said to be a typographical error and there is no pending 112, paragraph 6 rejection.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 10-11, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (US 5,079,155) in view of Great Britain Patent No. 857,689.

Claims 4, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (US 5,079,155) in view of Great Britain Patent No. 857,689 and further in view of Eigler et al. (US 5,077,210).

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (US 5,079,155) in view of Great Britain Patent No. 857,689 and further in view of Breillatt et al. (US 5,268,307).

Claims 18-21 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al. (US 5,079,155) in view of Great Britain Patent No. 857,689 and Linnecke et al. (US 4,240,751).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter from dependent claim 6, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is now allowable over the cited art. Because claims 2-4, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 15-16, 18-21, and 32-33 recite the same limitations or depend directly or indirectly from now allowable base claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims at an early date is solicited. If issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

27 January 2010

Date

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